

CAREER OF ROMANCE AND CRIME ENDS IN THIS CITY

Mrs. Isabelle Morgan Perkins Dewey's Adventures Like Fiction.

Woman College Graduate and Social Leader a Confessed Felon.

ARE there limits to the influence of feminine charms? Are they all-powerful, no matter what the soul within the beautiful frame, or the character behind the fascinating manner?

Was it her youth and beauty that won for Mrs. Isabelle Morgan Perkins Dewey remission of punishment for a crime confessed? Or was it the prattle of a babe, the cooing of her little two-year-old son in the cell where the mother was incarcerated, in the courtroom where she was arraigned, that moved to mercy the hearts of police, jailers, Government attorneys, and judges of two cities?

Strange as French Fiction.

Hers is a career which reads as if clipped from between board covers of a French novel, or taken in shorthand from in front of the footlights of melodrama.

The latter is the better figure. There is an "early past" which is not shown, but only hinted at in the spoken lines. The curtain fell on the last act on Tuesday, when Justice Wright, of Criminal Court No. 2, released the woman on her own recognizance after a fearful confession that she had obtained money under false pretenses by passing several worthless checks on local persons.

Let the audience settle comfortably into seats while the house lights are turned low and the limelight of publicity is turned on the drama of "One Woman's Life."

ACT I—PROPRIETIES OBSERVED.

A dozen years ago, she came to Springfield, Mass., a beautiful girl, then, in all the glory of twenty years. Her light brown hair was gold shot with sunlight, and clear blue eyes were set wide in a patrician face. Her mirror and admirers told her she was superb with the fairness of her face contrasted with the dead black of her handsome gowns. With her came her mother, also in black—for the husband and father, a physician, had just died in New England. What more reasonable than the cause assigned for coming to the Massachusetts city—that grief could not bear association with old scenes where the dear one had lived? The girl had been educated in the woman's department at Yale. A brother, a Yale man, had preceded her before married a society woman and had gone to live in Jersey.

The first scene is taken up with a beautiful young girl's conquest of the society of a staid and conservative community, until she had vanquished the cavers and had won a distinct position as a social leader.

The second scene opens with the first note of discord in this pretty story. At a social function Miss Morgan met a former acquaintance, a Yale man, who surprised eyes saw that there was constraint between them.

The reason was sought. Miss Morgan had nothing to say, but the "friend" was not so discreet. Soon whispers of that "early past" began to fly about, but they never got louder than whispers.

Suspicion Disarmed.

At this time, as if to disarm suspicion, Miss Morgan began to interest herself in church work to a great extent, and so modest and decorous was her deportment that the rumor died for want of belief. It was here, too, that she assumed the role of school teacher, leaving Springfield for a short time to teach in New Britain, Conn., but returning shortly to take a position in the Springfield public schools.

"We are really in straitened circumstances," she would explain with charming candor, and respect for her was increased tenfold by reason of her courage. Still later she went into the Bible Normal College.

The curtain of the first act falls on a respected young woman standing by the deathbed of a mother who was all that the daughter appeared to be and should have been.

ACT II—THE SIREN.

The second act is the story of the moth and the flame, in which both moth and candle suffered. With the mother seemed to die in the daughter those

qualities which had made her welcome everywhere. From the day of the funeral she started a career of perversity, and may now look back on a trail of broken hearts, and sadder still, broken homes.

It is said that, on her failure to get ball after the climax had been reached, she casually mentioned that she might employ her leisure time in writing reminiscences, thereby causing something like a panic in prominent Springfield circles.

A Gradual Decline.

Not all at once was this denouement reached. Gradually it was noted that she was going with a faster set than had known her before. She gave up teaching, yet dressed more superbly than ever, and spent money lavishly.

At last she began to appear on the street behind the fast-stepping married men, and three cases of separation on her account were cited without hesitancy, while one accomplished divorce, and another in which the papers had been filed when a reconciliation called the proceedings off, are matters of record.

When the second curtain falls, the center of the stage is occupied by a woman more beautiful than ever, more

ONE WOMAN'S LIFE.

Belle of a big New England town, by reason of beauty, style, and decorum, which won all hearts.

Breadwinner for a mother who had suffered financial reverses.

Companion of men who owned automobiles and loved a good time. Ostracized and shunned by former friends.

Rehabilitated by a fortunate marriage.

Divorced within a year.

Twice arrested on a criminal charge—pleading guilty in a Washington court.

Inmate, with her baby, in a local church home.

handsomely gowned, with many jewels, gazing with a half-defiant, half-regretful look at an acquaintance of former days, who has passed her on the street without speaking.

ACT III—REHABILITATION.

This act is short, swift in action, and sounds the depths of domestic emotion. A stranger comes to Springfield, a young man of twenty, with all a youth's predilection for an older woman, and the headiness of young love. There were spins in the country in the auto of young Stephen D. Perkins, of Chicopee, and there were moonlight strolls by the seashore.

Next came the announcement of his engagement to the former society belle. Then there was hastening to and fro on the part of his family and friends, and all that could be done was done to stop the marriage, but to no avail. Marry he would, and did.

Once More in Society.

Isabelle Perkins found herself once more within the pale of society. The smirch on her good name, however, would not wear away. A barrier was between her and the respect of those who, perforce, must acknowledge her how, with no family prestige of husband or connections could break down.

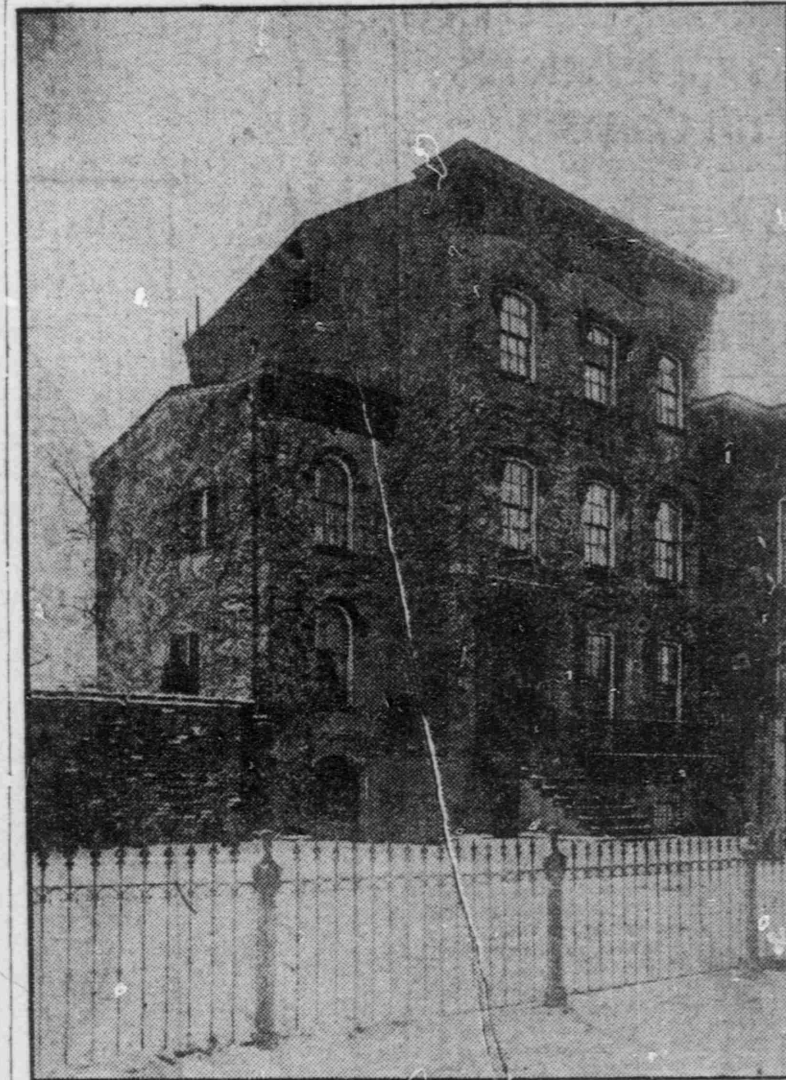
Did she get tired of "trying to be good" in the face of such chilliness? At any rate, within a year there were trips to New York on various excuses, till even the poor, blind husband, who could be told nothing, began to see dimly that his youthful judgment was not so wise as older counsel.

Detection.

A private detective was employed. When he asked the husband to go with him to New York and be convinced, the trusting fellow got only as far as New Haven when he declared he would not spy on his wife. A telegram a few hours later made him change his mind. In a New York hotel he came face to face with evidence to make easy a divorce and difficult the task of preventing him from breaking things and shooting himself.

Only one more broken heart and two more wrecked homes to the credit of our heroine. She did not return to Springfield.

Curtain.



WASHINGTON HOUSE OF MERCY.

Institution where Mrs. Dewey found refuge after being released.

ACT IV—THE CRIMINAL.

Scene, Cooley's Hotel, in Springfield. Enter the heroine, accompanied by a nurse who carried a pretty, prattling baby of six months. She registers as Mrs. George C. Dewey, and explains that her husband is traveling in the South. She engages board at \$5 a day, and borrows small sums from the proprietor, Henry E. Marsh.

When her bill is \$42.50 she tenders a check for \$100. Was it her beautiful face, or the baby? The bill is canceled and the balance in cash tendered her.

Check Worthless.

She leaves the hotel and goes to a fashionable boarding house in Maple Street. The check is returned as worthless, and after a Sherlock Holmes hunt, "Mrs. Dewey" is arrested as she is entering her carriage, and is driven in to the police station. She is held in \$500 bonds.

What was \$500 to a woman who had dangled the hearts of half the men of the town at her chateaux, and had had all the money she could spend? Call a messenger boy, and send these notes out to downtown offices. What! No help?

A spot of anger in either cheek, and more messages. More excuses? Then

the threat of "reminiscences," but still no response.

Probably it was caution indicated the danger of permitting the association of one's name with that of the ostracized belle. In any event, bail was not forthcoming, and in jail our star remained until the case was called in court.

Was it the beautiful face, or the baby? The judge decides that there is no evidence and laughily tells her to leave the court room, when Detective Ned Horne, of Washington, steps up and serves a warrant for two similar offenses here.

Arraigned in Washington.

The second scene is laid in Washington. Enter Isabelle Morgan Perkins Dewey and her baby, in charge of a Boston detective.

"Boys, this is tough," says the detective, when his charge had been committed to jail. "I've been in the business a long time, and my feelings don't lie on the surface, but I hope to God this woman gets off." Was it the beautiful face, or the baby?

"No, you cannot interview Mrs. Dewey," says Warden Harris, of the District Jail. "It is one of the saddest cases I ever came in contact with."

Caught in Massachusetts and Brought Here to Answer Charges.

Pleads Guilty, Sentence Is Suspended and She Enters Local Home.

hope she goes free, and is given another chance."

Was it the beautiful face, or the baby? The Criminal Court room is crowded with spectators, when a beautiful woman is led in, carrying a baby in her arms. Yet, though beautiful, there is a trace of weariness in the face as might come to a blame angel a trifle tired of the iniquitous conduct of its life.

As Assistant Prosecutor Given rises to read the charge, the woman breaks into tears, and the baby reaches out a chubby hand and toys with the indictment in the prosecutor's hand. In rather unsteady tones Mr. Given accuses the woman of having, in December last, passed a worthless check on a local hotel for her board bill, and another on a Seventh Street department store for a trifling purchase, receiving from both sources nearly \$200 in cash.

Confesses to Crime.

"How does the prisoner plead?" asked Justice Wright.

"Guilty," was the sobbing answer. "Does the prisoner realize what this plea means?" asked the court, in kindliest accent.

"I do," was the reply. Thereupon the district attorney made a strong plea for the leniency of the court, stating that Agent Massie, of the Prisoners' Aid Society, stood ready to look after her interests.

Sentence Suspended.

"I will suspend sentence, and release the prisoner on her personal recognizance," was the edict of the court. Was it the beautiful face, or the baby?

Mrs. Dewey is a free woman, and has entered a local home for women for a year. Her baby is with her. The "band" is in a New Orleans jail, fighting extradition to Massachusetts to answer to a steady charge. What led him into the alleged crime? Was it the beautiful face, or the baby?

ACT V—?

Who knows?

IT IS THE FUTURE.

Will the scene be laid in glided rooms, where the wine flows freely and voluptuous music steals through the bright, unholy place until the gray of morning reveals the sallow cheek of vice beneath the rouge, and the lines of misery unobscured?

Or will the "Guardian Angel," which some kind tradition says watches over each of us through life, grieving over our faults and ever ready to help into a better way of life, seize one stained hand while Baby takes the other, and together lead this erring woman into quiet but safe paths, amid new scenes and faces, where she may rehabilitate her tattered character and win the respect of her qualities of heart and brain without knowing under normal conditions?

WHO KNOWS?

WHERE A ROYAL CROWN MIGHT BRING SUSTAINED PEACE TO EUROPEAN STATES

Plans for Alsace That May End All Existing Franco-German Bitterness Over Territory.

By ROBERT STEIN.

A CITIZEN of a republic asking for a king!

It sounds like downright treason. Yet the creation of a king may be almost necessary for the safety of the republic.

To ward off a lynching, let it be stated at once that the kingdom is to be not of this world, but of the Old. Its name is Alsace. How will a king of Alsace contribute to the safety of the American Republic? Let us see.

Occasion for Pause.

In this December number of the "Cosmopolitan" Mr. Walker asked the divided world to stop its pleasures and its business long enough to consider what would happen if Russia took China and the two Indias. She would then control a total of nearly 500,000,000 people, and these not mere zeros of savages, but, as regards the 400,000,000 of China, highly efficient and at the same time incredibly ill-paid and obedient working machines.

The rest of humanity would number only about 200,000,000. But of these Africa and South America will for a good while count for almost nothing. The really efficient nations, even if allied, would number at most 200,000,000 of high-priced workers, scattered over all latitudes, while the masses under Russia's control would form one solid block.

Organization Alone Needed.

Of course, numbers count for nothing without organization, else China would even now be the foremost power on the globe. But the organization can be supplied by a very small number of superior brains, and of these Russia has an ample supply.

The mass of her peasantry, it is true, seem not much higher in the scale than the Asiatic populations, from whom they are probably in the main derived. This mass, however, is leavened by three superior elements: First, the aristocracy; second, the bourgeoisie; third, the peasantry.

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Controlled by a single will, unhampered by publicity, what may not this mass effect against the divided councils of the free nations, where every man thinks salvation depends on the realization of his own particular scheme?

It is not a noble task which history has thrust on these three untried offshoots of the Aryan family—to organize non-Aryans for victory over Aryans in the struggle for existence—for that is what it will come to in the end. But they deserve less blame than their free kindred, who imperil their supremacy by their base jealousies.

Absorption Postponed.

At the present moment, indeed, it looks as if Russia would have to postpone the absorption of Asia for a good while. However, the advent of spring may change everything. A loss of 100,000 men will mean little to a power that has forty times that number to draw upon. Should the Japanese be crippled, the danger of Russian predominance will be doubled.

While the fight is as yet undecided, it behooves the lovers of liberty in all lands to inquire what prevents the free nations from acting in concert to check this danger to free institutions. The United States need not be considered. It will take fifty years of education to rouse our people from their fancied security and to shake their faith in their dogma about "entangling alliances." An American alarmed at the prospective development of a vast despotic power on the other side of the Pacific must build his hopes of safety on the union of England, France, and Germany.

Trinity of Civilization.

The trinity of England, France, and Germany practically sums up civilization. We are so accustomed to pronounce the three words together that we may as well not hyphenate between them. As Alfred Naquet says ("L'Europeen," January 9, 1904):

"The moment a German or Englishman speaks French with sufficient purity, he is no longer distinguishable from a Frenchman and vice versa. Their mentality is the same, or so nearly the same that the least impulse would suffice to bring about their definite fusion."

Akin in blood, alike in instincts, manners, institutions, the three nations are called upon by every argument of reason to combine into a trust, around which the smaller free nations would cluster, constituting at once the union of freedom against despotism, civilization against barbarism.

The Chinese question would then be solved in an instant. The three nations, with the addition of Japan, and probably of Italy, would divide the empire into spheres of influence with reciprocal free trade—a condition on which England, Germany, and the United States are already agreed—establishing a balance of power, which would at once relieve America of all dread on the side

Alsace-Lorraine

Annexed

to

Germany

In

1871.

The darker shade on

the west indicates

French-speaking; the

lighter shade on the

east, German-speaking

territory.

After Petermann's

Mitteilungen, 1875,

plate 17.



of the Pacific. The same nations would doubtless apply a similar solution to the question of the Near East, for which there was never a better opportunity than now—but that is a story which does not belong here.

All this means no infringement of the rights of Russia, but merely a guarantee against her infringement of the rights of others. With nine million square miles she has more land than either Germany or France can ever have. A check to Russia's expansion will be the best thing for her people, by forcing the government to attend to internal reform.

A distinguished Russian on the other day actually expressed a hope for a Japa-

nese victory, because it would weaken the power of despotism and prepare the way for a Russian parliament! The Russian language is really one of the finest in the world. How will it bloom when the censorship is removed?

Lingual Division.

One cannot look into this question without being at once struck by one salient fact: that Alsace-Lorraine consists of two parts, an eastern German-speaking and a western French-speaking part. The natural solution at once suggests itself.

France and Germany along the language boundary seems to be regarded by thinking men in both countries as satisfactory. On one point they are still at variance. The Germans demand that, in case of restitution of the French-speaking part, the French shall expressly renounce all claims to the German-speaking part.

The French say that they can not honorably do this, so long as the German-speaking district to France. On the contrary, the restitution of the French-speaking district was proposed in January, 1891, in so distinguished a periodical as the "Preussische Jahrbücher." It was repeated in 1898 by Dr. Heinrich Molenaar (Holzkirchnerstrasse 5, Munich), who has since organized a Franco-German League (Deutschfranzösische

Some Changes Which Would Tend to Check the Advance of Russia Both East and West.

Liga, but with membership confined to German citizens), to procure the adoption of this very measure. Among its members are many prominent men.

A distinguished university professor declares that public opinion in Germany can probably be won over to the measure, provided France consents to a defensive and offensive alliance with Germany, to compensate the latter for the loss of Metz.

The French View.

Prominent Frenchmen, on the other hand, have repeatedly declared that they would willingly abandon all claims to Alsace-Lorraine, were it not that the Alsace-Lorrainers themselves still manifest a desire to be reunited to France. Jaures, the leader of the socialists, vice president of the chamber of deputies, even advocates the best possible understanding by which he probably means an alliance with Germany at once postponing all controversies to the "democratic future, when people everywhere will be left free to choose their allegiance. In other words, a large party in France is willing even now to renounce the right of making Alsace-Lorraine back by force of arms.

In 1898, Jules Lemaitre, whose patriotism certainly cannot be called in question, proposed the same measure that had been suggested from the German side: the restitution of French-speaking Alsace-Lorraine in exchange for a French colony—a measure which, in his opinion, would lead to a Franco-German alliance and would thus enable Germany to get more colonies. The proposal is said to have met with general approval in France.

Proposed Division Satisfactory.

Thus the division along the language boundary seems to be regarded by thinking men in both countries as satisfactory. On one point they are still at variance. The Germans demand that, in case of restitution of the French-speaking part, the French shall expressly renounce all claims to the German-speaking part.

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erto always been chosen outside of the country; many of the officials are outsiders, and the legislature is subject to the Reichstag. So long as this inferiority continues there will be dissatisfaction, and this will naturally be interpreted as a desire to return to France.

Since the purpose is to render the Alsace-Lorrainers contented, two things are evident: (1) the price must be chosen from among the Alsasian nobility—unless, perhaps, a Hapsburg prince might serve another highly desirable purpose; (2) he must be given the highest possible title. In other words, Alsace must have a king. A Hapsburg, of course, would accept no other title.

Is it a monarch by which William II could display his imperial power more strikingly than by the coronation of a king? It might be a grander pageant than the voyage to Palestine. Of course, the new monarch, once established, would never dream of resigning in favor of the French republic. And he would add a decisive factor to the pro-German tendencies already at work. All the aristocracy would rally to the support of his throne. The clergy would hasten to give their allegiance; between an "infidel" republic and a son of the Apostolic House, they would not hesitate a moment.

The Glitter of a Throne.

The peasantry would be fascinated by the spectacle of royal grandeur displayed on their own soil. Even among the irreverent city population, not a few would find that the presence of royalty added a sauce plangente to their lives. Do not Americans flock to Europe by the hundred to bask in the sunshine of royalty? Human nature has not changed much since the children of Israel said to the prophet: "Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

To add to the dignity of the new king, and therefore to the contentment of his people, his little kingdom might be enlarged by generous donations of adjoining territory. Nothing should be omitted that may help to conciliate the estranged French.

A Triple Alliance.

By the addition of England, at the demand of France, the dual alliance is promptly converted into a triple alliance. The free nations of Europe will then establish a balance of power in China, which will forever free America both from any possible Yellow Peril and from the danger of a despotic power controlling the Pacific.

Is it not true, then, that a good citizen of the American republic, and even of the French republic, has every motive to pray for the coming of this king? One additional king will not arrest nor even retard the democratization of Germany, but he will save Germany from becoming a province of Russia and therefore a tenfold danger to France; he will arrest the autocratization of the globe. The end justifies the means.